

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of producing a newspaper (7, 8, 9) which comprises at least one section (3, 4, 5) which is formed at least from one centrally folded printed sheet (1), the method comprising the following steps:

(a) feeding individual sequentially printed sheets (1), which are intended for forming the individual sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9), continuously to a first collecting station, and the sheets (1) which are assigned to one common section (3, 4, 5) are positioned one above the other to form a sheet stack (2);

(b) conveying the finished sheet stack (2) away from the first collecting station (10), the first sheet (1) of the further section (3, 4, 5) being fed to the first collecting station (10) after the preceding sheet stack (2) has been conveyed away from the first collecting station (10);

(c) folding the finished sheet stack (2) in order to produce the section (3, 4, 5);

(d) depositing the section (3, 4, 5) in a second collecting station (12) such that it comes to rest at a base of the second collecting station (12) or on an already deposited section (3, 4, 5);

(e) repeating steps (a) to (d) are repeated until all the sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9) have been completed and positioned one upon the other to form a section stack (15).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheets intended for forming the individual sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9) are printed sequentially by a digital printing machine and fed to the first collecting station (10).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the section stack (15) is folded in the center.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein sheets (1) of the sheet stack (2) are releaseably connected to one another in order to be conveyed away.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one further printed product (6, 6') is fed to the second collecting station (12) and positioned on the section (3, 4, 5) deposited there.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least one further printed product (6, 6') is fed such that it comes to rest on the predetermined section (3, 4, 5).

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein sheets (1) of a width of from 420 to 508 cm and of a length of from 580 to 760 cm are processed.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a finished sheet stack (2) is conveyed away from the first collecting station (10) at a speed which is greater than the speed of the sheets (1) fed to the first collecting station (10).

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet (1) is braked before being deposited in the first collecting station (10).

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finished sheet stack (2) is folded as it is conveyed out of the first collecting station (10).

11. An apparatus for producing a newspaper, in accordance with the method of claim 1, comprising a feed and depositing apparatus (17) for feeding individual sheets (1) and depositing the same to form a sheet stack (2), and a removal apparatus (20) for conveying sheet stacks (2) away.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, which comprises a digital printing machine for the sequential printing of sheets (1) intended for forming the newspaper (7, 8, 9).

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, which comprises a first folding arrangement (11) for folding a finished sheet stack (2) in order to form a section (3, 4, 5).

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first folding arrangement (11) is integrated in the first collecting station.

15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, which comprises a second collecting station (12), for collecting sections (3, 4, 5), and a second folding station (13) for folding the section stack (15).

16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the feed and depositing apparatus (17) comprises at least one receiving element (19) which is moved at non-uniform speed along a continuous circulatory path (25), rectilinear in at least one segment (25a) and is capable of receiving an incoming sheet (1), the speed of the receiving element (19) at that end of the segment (25a) which is directed toward a digital printing machine corresponding essentially to the speed of the incoming sheet (1), being greater than this speed of the incoming sheet in the downstream region and being reduced again in the region in which the sheet (1) is deposited in the first collection station (10).

17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the digital printing machine for printing the newspaper (7, 8, 9) comprises at least one section (3, 4, 5) which is formed from at least from one centrally folded printed sheet (1).

18. A method of producing a newspaper (7, 8, 9) which comprises at least one section (3, 4, 5) which is formed at least from one centrally folded printed sheet (1), the method comprising the following steps:

(a) feeding individual sequentially printed sheets (1), which are intended for forming the individual sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9), continuously to a first collecting station, and the sheets (1) which are assigned to one common section (3, 4, 5) are positioned one above the other to form a sheet stack (2);

(b) conveying the finished sheet stack (2) away from the first collecting station (10), the first sheet (1) of the further section (3, 4, 5) being fed to the first collecting station (10) while the preceding sheet stack (2) is being conveyed away from the first collecting station (10);

(c) folding the finished sheet stack (2) in order to produce the section (3, 4, 5);

(d) depositing the section (3, 4, 5) in a second collecting station (12) such that it comes to rest at a base of the second collecting station (12) or on an already deposited section (3, 4, 5);

(e) repeating steps (a) to (d) are repeated until all the sections (3, 4, 5) of the newspaper (7, 8, 9) have been completed and positioned one upon the other to form a section stack (15).